



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DOCTORS, OTHERS INDICTED FOR MEDICARE FRAUD, MONEY LAUNDERING**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two physicians and several other individuals involved in medical supply businesses were indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in a scheme to defraud Medicare of millions of dollars through a program that provides motorized wheelchairs to patients.

**Raphael Igbokwe**, 49, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nigeria residing in Kansas City, his brother **Kennedy Igbokwe**, 27, a citizen of Nigeria, **Godwin Iloka**, 38, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nigeria residing in Lee's Summit, Mo., **Roland Godfrey**, also known as Roland Edomobi, 45, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Cameroon residing in Texas, **Amazair McAllister**, 48, of Blue Springs, Mo., a licensed medical doctor, and **Ambrose Wotorson**, 70, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Liberia residing in Kansas City, a licensed osteopathic physician and surgeon, **Kenneth Agugua**, 46, with addresses in both Kansas City, Mo., and Houston, Texas, a permanent resident alien from Nigeria, and **Faith Agugua**, 33, of Houston, a naturalized U.S. citizen from Nigeria, were charged in a 16-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

**Raphael Igbokwe** owns and operates Prucare Health Services, also known as Procare Medical Supply, at 1734 E. 63rd St. in Kansas City, Mo. **Kennedy Igbokwe** owns and operates Cardinal Healthcare at 1105 E. 47<sup>th</sup> St., in Kansas City, virtually next door to Procare. **Iloka** owns and operates Xcellent Medical Service at 9500 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St. in Raytown, Mo., and Xcellent Medical Services at 4403 Blue Parkway in Kansas City. **Edomobi** operates Quest Rehabilitation Services, a medical supply company at 6145 Troost in Kansas City. **Kenneth** and **Faith Agugua** own and operate Primecare Management, Inc., a durable medical equipment company at 1734 E. 63<sup>rd</sup> St., in Kansas City. **McAllister** conducts his medical practice out of the same building occupied by Quest. **Wotorson** conducts his medical practice out of the same building occupied by Prucare Health Services.

Today's indictment replaces two separate criminal complaints that were filed against the defendants in U.S. District Court in Kansas City in December 2005.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that the co-defendants executed a scheme to defraud Medicare by means of false and fraudulent pretenses between Jan. 24, 2002, and Sept. 15, 2005.

The alleged fraud scheme involves Medicare's program (known as Part B) that covers the cost of physicians' services and certain other services such as durable medical equipment. Under this program, Graves explained, Medicare pays 80 percent of the allowed amount of claims submitted by medical providers who certify that they performed a reasonable and medically necessary service to an eligible patient. If a physician completes a Certificate of Medical Necessity (CMN) verifying that a Medicare beneficiary is so physically disabled that he needs a motorized wheelchair in order to move about, the CMN can be used to get Medicare to pay approximately \$4,000 toward the cost of purchasing a power wheelchair.

According to the indictment, **Wotorson** and **McAllister** completed numerous CMNs falsely and fraudulently certifying that it was medically necessary for Medicare beneficiaries to receive a power wheelchair. The **Igbokwes**, **Iloka**, **Godfrey**, and the **Aguguas**, as the owners and/or operators of several different medical supply companies, then allegedly used these false and fraudulent CMNs to submit numerous false and fraudulent claims to Medicare for power wheelchairs. After receiving approximately \$4,000 from Medicare for each of these false and fraudulent claims, the indictment says, some persons did receive a power wheelchair. However, the indictment alleges that **Iloka**, **Godfrey**, the **Igbokwes** and the **Aguguas** would frequently provide the Medicare beneficiary with a scooter that was much less expensive than the power wheelchair they fraudulently had billed to Medicare, or in some instances would not provide the Medicare beneficiary with any type of power wheelchair or scooter.

Today's indictment alleges that, between January 2002 and September 2005, in furtherance of the scheme to defraud Medicare by billing Medicare for power wheelchairs that were not supplied, and billing Medicare for power wheelchairs and scooters which were supplied to Medicare beneficiaries when no medical necessity existed, the defendants submitted more than \$5 million worth of false and fraudulent claims to Medicare, resulting in their actual receipt of more than \$2 million from Medicare.

Counts Two and Three of the federal indictment allege that **Raphael Igbokwe** structured currency transactions so as to evade the federal reporting requirements. According to the indictment, **Raphael Igbokwe** made a series of cash withdrawals of \$10,000 or less in order to evade the federal requirement for filing a Currency Transaction Report.

Counts Four through Twelve of the federal indictment allege that **Kennedy Igbokwe** structured currency transactions so as to evade the federal reporting requirements. According to the indictment, **Kennedy Igbokwe** made a series of cash withdrawals of \$10,000 or less in order

to evade the federal requirement for filing a Currency Transaction Report.

Counts Thirteen through Fifteen of the federal indictment allege that the **Igbokwes** aided and abetted each other on three separate occasions to launder the proceeds of their criminal offense. According to the indictment, **Kennedy Igbokwe** caused a series of wire transfers of funds derived from the alleged health care fraud to be sent from an account he controlled at U.S. Bank to an account **Raphael Igbokwe** controlled at Commerce Bank. On Nov. 9, 2005, \$25,900 was wired from the Cardinal Healthcare account to the Prucare Health Services account. On Nov. 14, 2005, \$47,500 was wired from the Cardinal Healthcare account to the Prucare Health Services account. On Nov. 15, 2005, \$56,000 was wired from the Cardinal Healthcare account to the Prucare Health Services account.

Count Sixteen of the federal indictment is a forfeiture count, which would require the **Ibokwes, Iloka, Godfrey, the Aguguas, McAllister and Wotorson** to forfeit to the government any property derived from the proceeds of the alleged health care fraud, including \$2 million.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, the **Igbokwes, Iloka and Godfrey** submitted 989 claims for power wheelchairs from January 2002 through September 2005, of which 739 claims, or nearly 75 percent, were referred by either **Wotorson or McAllister**. The affidavit alleges that most, if not all, of the billings submitted by the defendants' companies are fraudulent.

According to the affidavit, some of the beneficiaries were never examined by a physician and some didn't request wheelchairs. One beneficiary, for example, stated she did not want a wheelchair and has never used the wheelchair she received, which was abandoned on the front porch. Nearly all of the beneficiaries paid no co-payments for wheelchairs, scooters, or physician examinations, in violation of Medicare regulations.

In some cases, the affidavit says, recruiters were paid to solicit new beneficiaries at stores and senior citizen centers, on buses, or going to door to door in apartment buildings. They allegedly transported some of the beneficiaries to the offices of **Wotorson and McAllister** so that a fraudulent CMN could be prepared during a perfunctory and sham office visit.

This case is being prosecuted by Senior Litigation Counsel Gene Porter. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Office of Investigations for the Health and Human Services Inspector General.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html)